Enhancement of long term coal linkages

*519. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for enhancing the long term coal linkages to certain units in Andhra Pradesh which have already been recommended by SCCL;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon by the Union Government; and

(d) the details of impediments, if any according to the above said request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) On 4th July, 2006, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and written to the then Union Minister for Coal, inter-alia, requesting for enhancement of long term coal linkages to cement units in Andhra Pradesh which were already recommended by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term), an inter-Ministerial committee, recommends long term coal linkages to various consumers, including new enhancement cases of cement plants. In the meeting of the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) held on 11th may 2006, the applications seeking long-term coal linkages in respect of enhanced capacity of cement paints including those recommended by SCCL, were taken up for discussion by the Committee. The committee noted that details regarding the date of commissioning, enhancement capacity, investment made and other relevant details for better appreciation of the proposal were required from Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry and in the absence of those details, such cases were deferred.

Further, in pursuance of observations and directions dated 1.12.2006 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a case filed by Ashoka Smokeless Coal Pvt. Ltd. Vs. Union of India and others, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) has been constituted to evolve a new coal distribution policy. The report will, inter-alia, deal with policy relating to new/enhancement of linkages to cement plants and action will be taken as per policy to be approved by the Government.